

1. A timer for controlling an appliance, comprising:  
a rotatable cam-carrying member having cam surfaces thereon,  
a timing motor having a rotor that rotates in response to electrical stimulation,  
5 a drive mechanism for causing rotation of said cam-carrying member in response to rotation of said rotor,  
a plurality of cam-actuated switches, each cam-actuated switch comprising first and second arms, at least one arm mounted for engagement to a cam surface of said rotatable member for actuation of said switch in response  
10 to rotation of said rotatable member, and making and breaking an electrical connection by contact between contacting surfaces of said arms in response to actuation by said rotatable member,  
wherein the contacting surface of at least one switch arm comprises a tear in the surface of the switch arm, and adjacent the tear a first portion of the  
15 contact surface is deflected away from the surface of the switch arm in a first direction, whereby a sharp contact edge is created.

2. The timer of claim 1 wherein adjacent said tear in said at least one switch arm, a second portion of the contact surface adjacent to the tear extends away from the surface of the switch arm in a second direction opposite to the first direction.

3. The timer of claim 1, wherein each cam-actuated switch of said plurality of cam-actuated switches comprises first, second and third arms, each of said arms including contact surfaces.

4. The timer of claim 3, wherein the contacting surface of said first arm includes a first tear, and adjacent the first tear a first portion of the contact surface is deflected away from the surface of the first arm in a first direction toward said second arm, whereby a sharp contact edge is created.

5. The timer of claim 4, wherein the contacting surface of said second arm comprises a second tear in the surface of the second arm, and adjacent the second tear a first portion of the contact surface of said second arm is deflected away from the surface of the second arm in said first direction toward  
5 the third arm, whereby a sharp contact edge is created.

6. The timer of claim 5, wherein adjacent said second tear in said second arm, a second portion of the contact surface of said second arm adjacent to said second tear extends away from the surface of the second arm in a second direction opposite to the first direction, and toward said first arm.

7. The timer of claim 6, wherein the contacting surface of said third arm comprises a third tear in the surface of the third arm, and adjacent the third tear a first portion of the contact surface of said third arm is deflected away from the surface of the third arm in said second direction, whereby a sharp contact edge  
5 is created.